

**BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
EDUCATION/LICENSING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

DATE: January 5, 2011

TIME: 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

LOCATION: **Hilton San Diego Mission Valley**
901 Camino del Rio South
San Diego, CA 92108
Phone: 1.619.543.9000

PRESENT: Catherine M. Todero, PhD, RN, Chair
Judy Corless, BSN, RN
Dian Harrison, MSW, Public Member
Richard L. Rice, Public Member

STAFF PRESENT: Louise Bailey, MEd, RN, EO; Miyo Minato, MN, RN, NEC; Katie Daugherty, MN, RN, NEC; Leslie Moody, MEd, MSN, RN, NEC; Janette Wackerly, MBA, RN, NEC; Bobbi Pierce, Licensing Manager; Julie Campbell-Warnock, Research Program Specialist.

Dr. Catherine Todero called the meeting to order at 1030 AM. Committee members introduced themselves.

9.0 ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

September 22, 2010 MINUTES

November 15, 2010 MINUTES

ACTION: Accept the Minutes of September 22, 2010 and November 15, 2010 with minor corrections to punctuation and grammar.

M/S/C: Harrison/Corless

Public input: None

9.1 RATIFY MINOR CURRICULUM REVISION

- 9.1.1 California State University Chico, Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program (LVN to BSN Option)
- 9.1.2 California State University Fresno, Baccalaureate Degree and Entry Level Master's Degree Nursing Program
- 9.1.3 California State University San Marcos, Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program
- 9.1.4 University of San Francisco, Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program
- 9.1.5 Chabot College, Associate Degree Nursing Program
- 9.1.6 College of Marin, Associate Degree Nursing Program
- 9.1.7 College of the Sequoias, Associate Degree Nursing Program
- 9.1.8 Golden West College, Associate Degree Nursing Program
- 9.1.9 Mt. San Antonio College, Associate Degree Nursing Program
- 9.1.10 Mt. San Jacinto College, Associate Degree Nursing Program

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9.1.11 Unitek College, LVN to RN Associate Degree Nursing Program

9.1.12 Yuba College, Associate Degree Nursing Program

Progress Report:

9.1.13 California State University Sacramento, Baccalaureate Degree Program

9.1.14 United States University, Entry Level Master's Degree Nursing Program

L.Moody, NEC, presented this report.

ACTION: Ratify Minor Curriculum Revisions.

M/S/C: Rice/Harrison

Public input: None

9.2 MAJOR CURRICULUM REVISION

9.2.1 California State University Dominguez Hills, Entry Level Master's Degree Nursing Program

The program director, Patricia A. Hinchberger, EdD, RN, represented the program.

M. Minato, NEC presented this report. CSU Dominguez Hills ELM Program submitted a major curriculum revision proposal that their faculty had been working on since spring 2010, and is intended to ensure complete educational preparation for graduates entering the Clinical Nurse Leader roles. The revision was guided by program evaluation and student feedback. Documents were provided that detailed the proposed course changes which met the Board rules and regulation. Major elements of the revision included: lengthening of the curriculum from five to six semesters; redistribution of course contents, re-sequencing of courses, and renumbering of courses; strengthening the leadership and management content by introduction of courses for CNL roles concurrently with the basic medical surgical courses and offering theory of CNL roles in two separate courses, with increasing the number of clinical hours for the CNL practicum to ensure adequate clinical hours for the CNL role; re-distribution of nursing units resulting in more nursing units designated as Master's, post-licensure content but a net increase of only one unit for the ELM degree.

Dr. Todero requested clarification regarding the length of the program. Dr. Hinchberger responded that the program is two years in length including students' attendance at summer sessions. Dr. Todero asked if the CNLs were finding employment post graduation. Dr. Hinchberger responded that many already work in the VA system where CNL certification is a requirement.

ACTION: Approve the major curriculum revision for the California State University Dominguez Hills, Entry Level Master's Degree Nursing Program.

M/S/C: Corless/Harrison

Public input: None

**9.2.2 University of Phoenix, LVN to Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program at Modesto
Jessica Gomez, MSN, RN, Director LVN to BSN Program/Chair - College of Nursing, and Pamela Fuller, Ed.D, RN, Dean – College of Nursing, represented the program.**

J. Wackerly, NEC presented this report. The University of Phoenix, Modesto Campus, LVN-RN program requested approval of a major curriculum revision with anticipated implementation March 1, 2011. The major curriculum design aligns the College's mission, student needs, California Board of Nursing regulation 1426, QSEN core competencies, and the CCNE's 2008 *Essentials of Baccalaureate Education*. The nursing theory selected is Jean Watson's Theory of Human Caring. Curriculum revision includes the addition of six units, increasing the overall program from 120 to 126 units. Anatomy and Physiology courses will increase by one unit to four units, incorporating virtual lab

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experience, and Microbiology units are increased as well. Nursing courses were revised by increasing credits or strengthening content. Revised curriculum will have new course titles and numbers and meets Board rules and regulations.

Dr. Todero asked about the application of TEAS testing. Ms Gomez and Dr. Fuller explained that it would initially be used to identify student tutoring needs and to gather data on student performance that will determine how it will be used in future curriculum applications. Dr. Todero and Judy Corless asked about the use of simulation. Dr. Fuller and Ms Gomez explained that simulation is used for instruction in one class meeting for each nursing course. In response to additional questions regarding enrollment and FTEs, Dr. Fuller informed that there are currently 258 students in the program with 199 currently in nursing courses, and that there are 3 full-time faculty plus a simulation tech that assists RN faculty with technical aspects of the skills lab supported by 21 adjunct faculty. The program considers faculty teaching load which is six courses per year.

ACTION: Approve the major curriculum revision for the University of Phoenix, LVN to Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program at Modesto.

M/S/C: Rice/Corless

Public input: None

9.2.3 Napa Valley College, Associate Degree Nursing Program

Susan C. Engle, MSN, RN, Interim Associate Dean, represented the program.

J. Wackerly, NEC presented this report. The Napa Valley College ADN Program requested approval of a major curriculum revision that included the adoption of a Mission Statement, updating the Philosophy, development of the Unifying Theme, and Program Outcomes and Course outcomes statements. The faculty used the Nursing Practice Act (NPA), and the Institute of Medicine Teaching IOM: Implications of IOM Reports for Nursing Education and other references to strengthen the curriculum. The curriculum revision changed course content but course titles and numbers were unchanged. Total nursing units and units for graduations remained the same. The program implemented the curriculum revision in January 2009.

The revision was not noticed to the NEC until fall 2010. The NEC met with the nursing faculty on December 6, 2010 and explained the board's rules and regulations regarding and the need for Board approval prior to the program implementing a major change in curriculum.

Napa Valley College also has a Paramedic/LVN to RN advanced placement program. Napa Valley College, utilizing HESI testing, has validated that Paramedics and LVNs have basic knowledge base, so these students are given 11.5 units of equivalency credit. The program provides Bridge Modules for the Paramedic/LVN with Web-based theory followed by clinical. Paramedic students are also required to complete a Bridge Module in Maternity Nursing.

Dr. Todero requested additional information about the advanced placement provision and was provided additional verbal report by Ms Engle who also advised that grant funding for this pilot program was ending which may result in loss of future opportunities to continue this option. Dr. Todero asked if there were any challenges unique to these advanced placement students to which Ms Engle reported that students sometimes had more difficulty learning the role of the RN and that one of the program's faculty is conducting research to explore this issue. J. Corless asked whether the IOM recommendations used in forming the revision were the current recommendations or from the past report. Ms Engle clarified that they were from the past report

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but that the program was involved also in projects to implement the current IOM report recommendations including a collaborative with Sonoma State University that facilitates graduate progression to BSN and MSN degree programs.

ACTION: Approve the major curriculum revision for the Napa Valley College, Associate Degree Nursing Program

M/S/C: Corless/Rice

Public input: None

9.3 ACCREDITATION OF PRELICENSURE NURSING PROGRAMS

L. Moody, NEC, presented this proposal. A revised Agenda Item Summary and table attachment were provided to committee Board members at the beginning of the meeting.

During the regulatory process for the recently approved education regulations, the concept of requiring accreditation of all prelicensure nursing programs was raised. Several commentators submitted public comments on the proposed regulations recommending an accreditation requirement. Specifically, two organizations (American Nurses Association-California and California Nurses Association) and two individuals (Baker and O'Rourke) recommended that the Board require institutions of higher education be accredited by a regional or national accrediting organization such as Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Reasons stated for recommending the proposed requirement included: 1) accreditation is in the public interest; 2) is a requirement for other types of healthcare professionals' education; 3) assures quality of the institution; 4) provides consistent standards; 5) increases potential for transferability of units; 6) ensures that the institution provides an environment that supports broad education and intellectual stimulation; and 7) facilitates students' access to federal financial aid. The Board voted to accept the comments and to promulgate a separate regulatory proposal requiring that institutions of higher education be accredited, and at its November 2010 meeting, the Board referred the issue of accreditation of these institutions to the Education and Licensing Committee.

BRN staff have researched and discussed the issue, and submitted the following proposal: The institution of higher education offering the nursing program, or the institution of higher education with which the nursing program is affiliated, must be institutionally accredited by the Junior/Community College or Senior College Division of the Western Association of Colleges and Schools or a regional counterpart. Existing programs that do not meet the requirement must, within a specified time period yet to be determined: 1) apply for regional accreditation; 2) submit reports to the Board detailing the institution's progress in achieving the requisite accreditation; and 3) become fully accredited.

A variety of reasons for requiring institutional accreditation have already been provided and a presentation on "accreditation" and the staff discussion regarding research findings that produced this proposal was presented along with the reasons for recommending regional institutional accreditation which include transferability of academic credit, focus on degree-granting colleges and universities, comparability with accreditation requirement for other professions, comparability with accreditation requirement for public institutions of higher education, and guarantee of degree-granting authority.

ELC Board members asked questions regarding cost and length of time required for WASC accreditation and all expressed a desire to hold multiple public forums to facilitate stakeholder input preliminary to consideration of drafting regulatory language for this proposal.

ACTION: Hold public forums in four California locations (Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Diego, central California) to invite input from as many constituent groups as possible, including schools, nursing programs, students, healthcare provider and nursing organizations, consumers and others, on the proposal to require the schools of Board approved nursing programs be

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institutionally accredited by the Junior/Community College or Senior College Division of the Western Association of Colleges and Schools or a regional counterpart. Staff to report to ELC input received from these public forum sessions.

M/S/C: Harrison/Rice

Public input: Kelly Green of the California Nurses' Association urged the Board to continue its progress of working on this concept. Diane Moore, Associate Provost of West Coast University expressed concerns regarding the cost and length of time required to achieve WASC accreditation, discussed the benefits of accreditation by a national accrediting body, and urged the Board to not limit acceptable accreditation to only WASC. Elizabeth Berry, RN, NP, Riverside County Regional Medical Center expressed support for an accreditation requirement that may provide additional value to students and is also necessary to qualify graduates for employment in the VA system. Mikail Schneider, VP of Nursing, Heald College stated that transferability of units is problematic even between public California colleges and that, regardless of accreditation status, acceptance of units is determined by each individual college. Mr. Schneider also expressed concerns regarding potential expenses of WASC accreditation to colleges resulting from changes that schools must make to come into compliance with WASC standards. Cheryl Ratliffe of Concorde Career Colleges stated that she supports evaluation of the issue and encouraged evaluation of the manner in which other states have addressed the issue of academic quality.

9.3 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 2011-2013

L. Moody, NEC presented this report. Biennially committee goals and objectives are reviewed and revised as needed. The 2009-11 ELC Goals and Objectives were reviewed and revised to produce 2011-2013 recommendations listed in an attachment. A summary of changes to the 2009-11 Goals/Objectives was provided.

ACTION: Approval of the Goals and Objectives 2011-2013 as presented.

M/S/C: Rice/Corless

Public input: None

9.5 2010 GOAL ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

L. Moody, NEC presented this report. Annually the committee reviews the activities of the previous calendar year in relation to meeting their stated goals and objectives. An attachment detailed the achievements relative to ELC 2009-11 Goals and Objectives for the period of January 2010 to December 2010. Achievements for Goal #5 were not listed in the draft report but it was verbally reported that staff work relative to these goals and objectives is ongoing, and the report will be updated to reflect such.

Public input: None

9.6 LICENSING PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND STATISTICS

B. Pierce, Lead Program Analyst presented this report.

Program Update:

From October 1, 2010 through December 14, 2010, the Board received 2,497 applications from new graduates who attended California nursing programs and 147 applications from new graduates who attended out of state nursing programs. This is a slight decrease in applications from the previous period and may be due to students waiting to submit their application until they have successfully completed the final course or delaying application due to concerns related to decreased employment opportunities. Of these applications, 521 California graduates and 28 out of state graduates have been found eligible

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for the NCLEX-RN. There have been 77 California graduates and 9 out of state graduates permanently licensed. The reason for the difference between the number of applications received and the number of applicants made eligible is that California graduates cannot be found eligible for the examination until the date of graduation or completion of nursing requirements, and out of state graduates cannot be found eligible for the examination until an official transcript, with degree posted, has been received and evaluated. An update of the number of new graduates found eligible and licenses issued will be provided at the February Board Meeting.

Statistics:

The Department of Consumer Affairs, in conjunction with the Board, continues to provide statistical reports to the Governor's Office and the State and Consumer Services Agency on a monthly basis for the Licensing and Job Creation Report. This project has been on-going since January 2010 and the Board has been an active participant in meeting the goals of the program to contribute towards California's job growth through expeditious and efficient processing of professional pending examination and licensing applications.

The statistics for the last two fiscal years and the first five and one-half months of Fiscal Year 2010/11 were provided in an attachment. It was pointed out that there is a decrease in the number of applications for examination, endorsement and repeaters during the last two fiscal years. It is believed that this is due to the economic slowdown and the Board no longer accepting applications that do not include a United States Social Security Number. In the previous quarter there were only 23 applicants that did not have a Social Security Number.

Issues:

- The International Analysts have seen an increase in the number of fraudulent documents. These documents include transcripts allegedly being sent from nursing schools and copies of registered nursing licenses sent by applicants. While the number of applications has decreased, the time needed to analyze the applications and supporting documents has increased. There are a large number of international applications suspended in queue waiting action such as submission of transcripts by some other party or additional documentation from applicant.
- Online programs that offer degrees based on life and/or work experience. The applicant can earn a degree in as little as seven (7) days. The websites state that there is no attendance required, no course materials, no examinations, and no waiting to get into the program.

Dr. Todero asked about the approximately 1,000 applications pending action. Ms Pierce explained that there were various reasons including waiting for the roster from the program, waiting on fingerprinting results or that the student had not yet successfully completed the final program course.

Public input: An audience member commented that they had known of an illegitimate school that kept boxes of degree documents that were distributed to enrollees. This person suggested that BRN costs of reviewing international applications should be offset by requiring higher fees from these applicants.

9.7 OUT OF COUNTRY APPLICANTS

B. Pierce, Lead Program Analyst presented this report.

While the Licensing Program has experienced a decrease in the number of applications for applicants educated out of the country, the level of difficulty in analyzing these applications has increased. The

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Licensing Analysts review documents from nursing programs all over the world. While the documents differ in format from each country, there are consistencies within each country that the analysts are familiar with. Examples of some of the difficulties the Licensing Analysts deal with on a daily basis and challenges unique to reviewing applications from applicants educated in the Philippines, Haiti, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Russia and former republics, and China were described.

Dr. Todero noted that there may be many foreign nurses practicing in California who were licensed during the past period of nursing shortage and questioned whether the degree of scrutiny has always been as extensive. Ms Pierce clarified that during her time in her current role, international applications undergo a very thorough review.

Public input: None

9.8 2009-2010 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT (PRELIMINARY REPORT)

J. Campbell-Warnock, Research Program Specialist presented this report.

The BRN 2009-2010 Annual School Survey was conducted from October 1, 2010 to November 15, 2010. The survey was conducted on behalf of the Board by the Research Center at the University of California, San Francisco. Drafts of the 2009-2010 Annual School Report – Data Summary for Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs and 2009-2010 Annual School Report – Data Summary and Historical Trend Analysis were provided under separate cover, and include data on enrollments, graduations, faculty historical data from past years of the survey where available, etc. from California pre-licensure nursing programs. Ms Campbell-Warnock reviewed the data and provided analysis and interpretation.

It was explained that finalization of the report data has been slightly delayed due to factors that include the expanded length of this year's report related to the addition of questions to the survey, substitute staff working on the report at UCSF and delay in submission from one program due, in part, to flooding of their computer facilities. A final report will be available at the next Board meeting.

ELC Board members discussed possible areas of concern related to student displacement from clinical rotations. Some healthcare organizations only accommodate students for clinical placement that will meet the organization's hiring criteria relative to the degree that will be earned. Dr. Todero suggested that future survey language for questions regarding loss of clinical placement might be made more specific to elicit a response that indicates whether the program completely lost a clinical placement or was offered a clinical placement that was different from previous schedules.

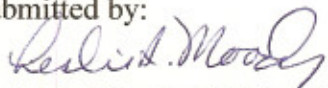
Public input: None

9.9 PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Public input: None

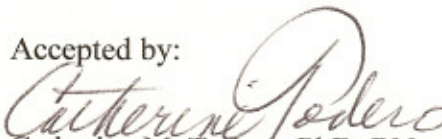
Meeting adjourned at 1250.

Submitted by:



Leslie A. Moody, MSN, MAEd, RN
Nursing Education Consultant

Accepted by:



Catherine M. Todero, PhD, RN
Chairperson